

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-10, 12-15 and 17-20, with claims 1, 12 and 13 being independent. Claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and its subject matter added to each of claims 1, 12 and 13. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 11 is directed to allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Capodieci (U.S. Patent No. 5,871,793). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite allowance of the claims, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to include the subject matter of allowable claim 11. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance and that the §103 rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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